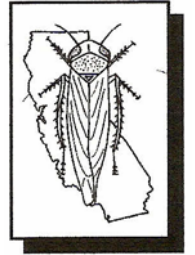


BEET CURLY TOP VIRUS MONTHLY REPORT



CURLY TOP VIRUS CONTROL PROGRAM

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Monthly Report for September, 2013

The Beet Curly Top Virus Control Program's fall surveys are conducted on summer host plants on fallow ground. The purpose of these surveys is to locate and map Beet leafhopper (BLH) populations for the fall spray campaign prior to the migration of the adult BLH to their winter/spring breeding grounds. Populations are monitored based on sweep surveys. Counts are made in a series of single sweeps over host plants such as Russian thistle, *Bassia* and Saltbush. Average counts for this time of year are below average counts in previous years; 0-2 BLH per sweep this year versus 8-12 BLH per sweep in past years. The Program has continued in making preparations for the fall spray campaign by conducting vehicle maintenance, notifying the aerial applicator and Crop Production Services, and will hold a safety meeting.

Fresno County

Weekly surveys of fallow fields continued throughout the month. Surveys were conducted in Firebaugh, Mendota, Coalinga, Huron and Three Rocks.

- In Firebaugh, fields between Herndon Avenue and Belmont Avenue, counts were on average less than 1 adult BLH per sweep. Sweeps were conducted in five sections.
- In Mendota, from Fairfax Avenue to San Diego Avenue, counts were on average less than 1 adult BLH per sweep. Survey and sweeps were also conducted along Jensen Avenue to Manning Avenue and from San Diego Avenue to Santa Fe Grade. Sweeps were conducted in ten sections.
- In the Three Rocks area, from Clarkson Avenue to Highway 145 and from one mile west of Napa Avenue to Colusa Avenue, counts were on average less than 1 adult BLH per sweep. Sweeps were conducted in five sections.
- In the Mendota area, on Manning and Interstate 5 (Tumey Hills) and Jensen Avenue to Highway 145, counts were on average less than 1 adult BLH per sweep, with an occasional nymph. Sweeps were conducted in six sections.
- Surveys through the Pasajaro washout, west of Highway 269 and between Highway 198 and Huron, sweep counts averaged 10 adult BLH and 5 nymphs per sweep in one section. Two other sections were surveyed with less than 1 adult BLH per sweep.
- In the Coalinga oil fields, counts on average were less than 1 adult BLH per sweep. Sweeps were conducted in seven sections.
- An additional fallow field was identified at Chateau Fresno and Manning Avenue. Counts were on average 1 adult BLH per sweep, with an occasional nymph. This area will continue to be monitored, and if necessary, a ground rig treatment will be conducted.

- Two additional fields were identified for potential treatment in the fall spray campaign. These fields are located west of Highway 145 and north of Mt. Whitney Avenue.
- Results from bell pepper samples that were submitted from Fresno County confirmed Curly Top virus infection is present.
- 56 of the 150 treatment waivers sent have been returned. Program personnel are working to resolve the outstanding waivers.

Kern County

- Along Interstate 5, north of Twisselman Road, sweep surveys conducted produced counts on average, less than 1 adult BLH per sweep. Nymphs have not been detected at this time.
- On the east side along Route 33, north of Highway 46, counts were on average less than 1 adult BLH per sweep. Nymphs have not been detected at this time.
- A roadside survey of Russian thistle along Interstate 5 and Herring Road averaged counts of 10-15 adult BLH per sweep.
- Eight of the 24 treatment waivers have been returned. Program personnel are working to resolve the outstanding waivers.
- A new Agricultural Pest Control Specialist will begin survey duties and training in October. Program personnel are also conducting interviews to hire a new seasonal Ag. Aide, expected to begin in October.

Kings County

- Four sections south east of Kettleman City and east of Interstate 5 and Utica Avenue were surveyed. Host plants consisted of Russian thistle and *Bassia*. In three of those sections, counts were on average less than 1 adult BLH per sweep. The fourth section that was surveyed averaged 1 adult BLH per sweep with an occasional nymph.
- Surveys were conducted 10 miles east of Interstate 5 along Utica Avenue in six sections. Counts on average were 1 adult BLH and less than 1 nymph per sweep. In one of the sections, a nymph hatch had occurred and counts were on average 15-20 adult BLH and 12 nymphs (2nd and 3rd instar) per sweep.
- In the Interstate 5/Utica Avenue area, average sweep counts were 1 adult and 1 nymph per sweep.
- One of the four waivers sent have been returned. Program personnel are working to resolve the outstanding waivers.

Merced County

- Fallow field surveys were conducted along Highway 165 and on Highway 140 west into Gustine, and along Highway 33 to Ortigalita Road. There were no fallow fields that fall into the Program's criteria for the fall spray campaign; however, there were various roadside weeds. The roadside sweep survey counts were on average less than 1 adult BLH per sweep.
- Sweeps on a small patch of *Bassia* alongside El Nido Avenue yielded 6-8 adult BLH and 3 nymphs per sweep. Roadsides will continue to be monitored, and if necessary, ground rig treatment will be conducted.

San Joaquin County

- Samples of pumpkin were obtained and sent for analysis to confirm Curly Top virus.
- Fallow field surveys were conducted. There were no fallow fields that fall into the Program's criteria for the fall spray campaign. There were various roadside weeds with counts on average of less than 1 adult BLH per sweep. Roadsides will continue to be monitored, and if necessary, ground rig treatment will be conducted.

Stanislaus County

- Fallow field survey was conducted at the beginning of the month, west of Newman and east of Interstate 5/Stuhr. Russian thistle was sparse and counts were less than 1 adult BLH per sweep. This same field was surveyed again at the end of the month. There was more Russian thistle and counts were on average 10-12 adult BLH and 5-6 nymphs per sweep.
- Fallow field survey was conducted from Fink Road in Crows Landing to Zacharias Road in Patterson. Only one fallow field was identified which was located along Interstate 5 and Sperry Road. This field does not meet the program's criteria for the fall spray campaign. Sweep counts were zero per sweep.
- Samples of black eyed peas were sent for analysis. Results were negative for Curly Top virus.